

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /098 W
-----075943 051512Z /64

R 051320Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7510
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GE, CH
SUBJECT: THE GDR AND THE PRC

REFS: (A) BERLIN 3627 (NOTAL); (B) 77 BERLIN 8128
(C) BERLIN 2766; (D) BERLIN 3180

1. SED GENERAL SECRETARY HONECKER, IN HIS REPORT
TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON MAY 1 (REF D), SHARPLY
CRITICIZED THE PRC FOR ITS "GREAT POWER CHAUVINISM"
AND FOR ITS ATTACKS ON THE SOVIET UNION AND THE
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SOCIALIST COMMUNITY. HONECKER EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR
SOVIET PROPOSALS ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH
CHINA AND NOTED WITH CONCERN THAT THE PRC HAD REJECTED
THESE PROPOSALS. HE MADE CLEAR THAT THEIR ACCEPTANCE
BY THE PRC WOULD HAVE HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT ON
RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. THEIR REJECTION MEANS,
HONECKER SAID, THAT THE GDR MUST CONTINUE WITH THE

POLICY TOWARD CHINA LAID DOWN AT THE NINTH PARTY CONGRESS IN 1976. (NOTE; THE NINTH PARTY CONGRESS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE PRC PROVIDED THE PRC ADOPTED GENUINELY MARXIST-LENINIST POLICIES, DISCONTINUED ITS ANTI-SOCIALIST POLICY AND WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.)

2. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) OF MAY 31 CARRIED AN EDITORIAL CRITICIZING PRC VICE PREMIER KU MU FOR REMARKS MADE DURING HIS VISIT TO THE FRG. ND STATES THAT THE VISIT WAS DIRECTED AGAINST PEACE AND SECURITY AND WAS INTENDED TO STIR UP TENSIONS. ND IS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF THE STATEMENTS WHICH KU MU AND GENSCHER ARE REPORTED TO HAVE MADE ON GERMAN UNIFICATION. KU MU IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT "WE SYMPATHIZE MOST DEEPLY WITH THE JUSTIFIED WISH OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE FOR NATIONAL UNITY." ND OBSERVES THAT THE DESIRE TO QUESTION THE EXISTENCE OF THE GDR CAN ALSO BE FOUND WITHIN CERTAIN INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES OF THE FRG. ND ADDS THAT KU MU'S STATEMENT OF SYMPATHY FOR THE REVANCHIST POLICY OF THE FRG CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD AS AN ATTACK ON THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND SECURITY. ND IS ALSO CRITICAL OF THE INTEREST OF THE CHINESE IN MILITARY COOPERATION WITH THE "IMPERIALIST STATES," INCLUDING THE FRG.

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3. ND CONCLUDES BY OBSERVING THAT THE VISIT OF THE PRC DELEGATION CAN BE HARMFUL, NOT LEAST TO THE CHINESE, AND WARNS THAT GENSCHER REJOICED TOO SOON ABOUT KU MU'S REMARKS ON GERMAN UNITY, AS GENSCHER'S DREAM WILL NOT BE REALIZED.

4. HERMANN AXEN, MEMBER OF THE SED POLITBURO AND PARTY SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, ECHOED HONECKER'S CRITICISM IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MAY 26. HE NOTED CHINESE SUPPORT FOR THE GERMAN IMPERIALIST THEORY OF A UNIFIED GERMAN NATION AND REJECTED THE "GREAT POWER CHAUVINISM" OF THE CHINESE LEADERS.

5. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO AN UNUSUALLY WELL-INFORMED SOURCE IN THE EAST BERLIN DIPLOMATIC CORPS, DESPITE THE PUBLIC HARD LINE IT IS TAKING, THE GDR IS ACTIVELY SEEKING TO EXPAND TRADE WITH CHINA. CHINESE OFFICIALS HERE HAVE TOLD OUR SOURCE THAT THE GDR HAS ASKED TO TAKE PART IN A TRADE SHOW IN PEKING NEXT YEAR. THE CHINESE

REPORTEDLY TOLD THE EAST GERMANS THEIR APPLICATION
WAS SUBMITTED TOO LATE AND COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED.

6. AS A FOOTNOTE IT MAY BE NOTED THAT A MEMBER
OF THE PRC EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN TOLD AN EMBOFF
RECENTLY THAT THE PRC WOULD LIKE TO HAVE BETTER
RELATIONS WITH THE GDR BUT THE GDR WAS UNDER
PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIETS TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO
WITH SUCH AN APPROACH. HE DID NOT SEEM VERY HOPEFUL
THAT THE SITUATION WOULD SOON CHANGE. HE
ALSO DISMISSED THE SOVIET PROPOSALS ON NORMALIZING
RELATIONS WITH CHINA AS MERE TALK, SAYING THAT THE

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PRC WAS WAITING FOR ACTIONS.

7. COMMENT: THE CRITICISM OF THE PRC AND OF
THE KU MU VISIT IS IN LINE WITH GDR POLICY TOWARD
THE PRC. COMPLAINTS ABOUT FRG-PRC MILITARY

COOPERATION IS AN OLD THEME (REF B). THE REPORTED
CHINESE COMMENTS ON GERMAN UNITY IS LIKELY TO ADD
A NEW IRRITANT IN THE ALREADY STRAINED POLITICAL
RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN03780
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780234-0615
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780698/aaaadfye.tel
Line Count: 173
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c34be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BERLIN 3627, 77 BERLIN 8128, 78 BERLIN 2766, 78 BERLIN 3180
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2495775
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE GDR AND THE PRC
TAGS: PEPR, GC, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c34be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014